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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 18, 1917

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the City Club, New York, on June 2, 1917. There were present President Commons and Messrs. Babson, Fairchild, Farnam, Fetter, Mitchell, Wildman, Willcox, and Young.

At the request of President Commons it was voted to hold the annual meeting for 1917 in Philadelphia, instead of Rochester, which had been the original choice.

A proposal to constitute a number of committees to investigate and report upon some of the principal economic problems of the war received an adverse vote. The opinion of the majority was that such a step might possibly result in the unnecessary duplication of work already being done by other agencies, and that it would be contrary to the traditions of the Association and, in particular, to the provision of our constitution that "the Association as such will take no partisan attitude, nor will it commit its members to any position on practical economic questions." It was agreed, however, that the Association might advisably do what it could to aid the government in securing the services of economic experts and to inform such economists as desire to enter the national service with respect to the particular employments in which they might be most useful. For the purpose of furthering these ends, a special committee was appointed, with headquarters in Washington, consisting of F. W. Taussig (chairman), G. E. Barnett, and the Secretary of the Association.

In accordance with this purpose the Executive Committee of the Association has made an arrangement with the United States Civil Service Commission at Washington by which the special committee mentioned above will coöperate with the Civil Service Commission in the registration of economic experts for governmental service. The Civil Service Commission has accordingly distributed to members of the Association a return registration blank in which members are requested to state their special fields of interest, their professional equipment, and for what duration they could accept appointment in case of urgent governmental need.

The Secretary is glad to be able to report a small net gain in membership and a notable net gain in subscriptions to our Publications. The figures follow:

Members and subscribers in December, 1916.....	2489
Annual members in December, 1916.....	2031
Members resigned in 1917.....	135
Members removed for lack of address.....	9
Members dropped for non-payment of dues.....	59
Members dropped because of war conditions.....	8
Annual members died	15
Annual members changed to life members.....	4
	— 230
	1801
New members added in 1917.....	274
Subscribers changed to annual members.....	3
	— 277
Total annual members in 1917.....	2078
Life members in December, 1916.....	83
Life members died in 1917.....	3
	— 80
Annual members changed to life members in 1917.....	4
Subscriber changed to life member.....	1
	— 5
Total life members in December, 1917.....	85
Honorary members	6
Total members in December 1917.....	2169
Subscribers in December, 1916.....	369
Subscriptions discontinued in 1917.....	35
Subscribers changed to annual members.....	3
Subscriber changed to life member.....	1
	— 39
	330
New subscriptions in 1917.....	103
Total subscriptions in December, 1917.....	433
Total members and subscribers in December, 1917.....	2602
Net gain in annual members.....	47
Net gain in life members.....	2
Net gain in subscribers.....	64
Total net gain	113

It is with regret that the Secretary has to make record of the deaths of eighteen of our members, one of whom was serving as vice-president of the Association for the year 1917.

Baily, Joshua L.	Hyde, J. W.
Blanchard, Marshall F.	Merritt, Thomas P.
Bronson, Samuel L.	Neeb, Charles W.
Brooks, Joseph J.	Palen, Rufus J.
Davis, Horace (<i>Life Member</i>)	Timlin, W. H.
Eastman, Samuel C.	Wallace, George M.
Grey, Albert Henry George (Earl) (<i>Life Member</i>)	White, Horace (<i>Life Member</i>)
Hopewell, John	Wicker, George R.
Huntington, Francis C.	Woodward, S. W.

Respectfully Submitted.

ALLYN A. YOUNG,
Secretary.